



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

28 August 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL BOARD

SUBJECT: National Preparedness Month

1. September is National Preparedness Month. As a national level response organization Civil Air Patrol needs to take steps to encourage members and their communities to be better prepared for emergencies, and National Preparedness Month is an appropriate time to do so. National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2006 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. Throughout September, DHS will work with a wide variety of organizations like Civil Air Patrol, from both the government and private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and to promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation.

2. Civil Air Patrol is a 2006 National Preparedness Month Coalition Member, and as such we want to encourage all members, their families and friends, and their communities to focus on four simple steps to make themselves better prepared for emergencies:

a. Get a Kit - Get a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days in the event an emergency happens. The kit should include basic items like water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlight and a first aid kit. Units should consider building kits with members at a unit meeting in September, and maybe even inviting guests to do the same.

b. Make a Plan - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan and address sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Units should assist members in developing plans, and making sure that mechanisms are put in place to contact, assist and support members in need when a disaster strikes.

c. Be Informed - Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and what the appropriate responses to these threats are. Key unit staff should brief members on the threats to your communities and what Civil Air Patrol may be tasked to do if something does happen in your community.

d. Get Involved - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. This is a great time to schedule general emergency services training for new members as well as continuing education training for members who are already mission qualified. It would also be appropriate to reach out to other organizations in your community for joint training and education like your local Citizen Corps Council, Community Emergency Response Team, or American Red Cross Chapter.

3. There are many useful ideas, tools and tips available to assist with the above at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). Units are encouraged to post links to this site on their websites and handout materials available there to their members. The site also has a calendar available at: <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm/calendar.htm>. Units may want to consider supporting local events on the calendar or posting their own events that they think may be of interest to the local community for National Preparedness Month.

4. We hope that you have a safe and educational National Preparedness Month.

ANTONIO J. PINEDA  
Major General, CAP  
Commander

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